United Nations A/ES-10/603–S/2013/567

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 20 September 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I write to convey our serious concerns regarding the fragile situation on the ground as a result of the continued pursuit by Israel, the occupying Power, of illegal policies against the Palestinian people and their land. Over the past weeks, while the international community has patiently awaited confirmation of tangible progress in the resumed negotiations between the two sides, tensions have continued to rise following several negative developments that are widening the gap between the hopes and expectations for the political process and the reality on the ground. Israeli settlement activities, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, military raids and constant provocations, including incitement to religious conflict by extremist Israeli settlers, are exacerbating conditions on the ground and reinforcing doubts regarding the desire of Israel for or commitment to the peace that the State of Palestine, with the strong support of the international community, has been earnestly seeking and remains committed to achieving.

We are extremely alarmed by the escalation of aggressions in Occupied East Jerusalem, in particular in and around Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque, which continue to be subjected to provocations by Israeli extremists, including settlers and Government officials, among them ministers. The blatant disrespect for the mosque and its worshippers and the continued declarations of further incursions into the holy site are tantamount to grave acts of incitement that are stoking religious sensitivities and aggravating already elevated tensions.

Among several incidents in this regard have been the following: on 4 September, Israeli occupying forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque, injuring three women and pepper-spraying Palestinians who were protesting after 40 Jewish extremists stormed the compound; on 4 September, the occupying forces banned Jerusalem's Mufti, as well as other religious and prominent Palestinian figures, from entering Al-Aqsa Mosque, and a group of Jewish extremists stormed Al-Haram

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Al-Sharif compound to perform prayers on the eve of the Jewish New Year; on 5 September clashes broke out in the neighbourhood of Silwan when Israeli settlers danced on copies of the Quran; on 6 September, occupying forces raided Al-Haram Al-Sharif compound following the Friday prayers, causing 55 injuries and arresting 15 Palestinian civilians; and on 9 September, Sheikh Azzam al-Khatib, Director of the Jerusalem Waqf and Al-Aqsa Affairs, reported that 150 Jewish extremists had entered the compound under heavy police guard.

It is alarming that Israeli officials continue to recklessly fuel these tensions by encouraging extremists to persist with such provocations, which threaten to ignite religious conflict, with far-reaching and dangerous consequences for the region and beyond. We therefore once again draw the international community's attention to this serious matter for the State of Palestine and the entire Muslim world, and call for vigilance in the demands for a halt to all such Israeli incitement and for respect by the occupying Power for its obligations under international law, including respect for the sanctity of religious sites.

Regrettably, Israel has also persisted with its construction of settlements and the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine — in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. In addition to other settlement activities, on 9 September, Israeli bulldozers began to construct a dividing zone between the Palestinian town of Issawiya and an illegal settlement on Occupied French Hill in East Jerusalem. Israeli bulldozers also continued to level private Palestinian lands in Salfit for establishment of infrastructure for a new Israeli settlement. The occupying Power issued eviction notices to residents of 28 houses in the Qirami neighbourhood in East Jerusalem under claims that it was for their own safety, because of fears that their homes have dangerous cracks in the walls that are the result of illegal Israeli excavations underneath the Old City. Moreover, once again, the occupying Power has undertaken the demolition of Palestinian structures in the Khirbet Makhool village in Tubas, in the Jordan Valley, displacing more than 100 people.

In the same period, the Israeli occupying forces have continued the systematic violence against the Palestinian people that has for too long characterized this more than 46-year military occupation, including the killing and injury of civilians in violent military raids and arrest operations and the excessive use of force against civilian protesters. Yet another young Palestinian life has been lost to this senseless violence by the occupying Power. In the early morning hours of 17 September in the Jenin refugee camp, occupying forces shot and killed Islam Husam al-Toubasi, a 21-year-old Palestinian, and injured several other Palestinians, including a 13-year-old boy. Also in the Jenin refugee camp, 17-year-old Kareem Sobhi Abu Sbeih, who was shot and wounded by the occupying forces on 20 August during another raid of the camp, tragically died of his wounds on 31 August. We condemn these killings and urge the international community to persist with their calls for Israel, the occupying Power, to respect its obligations under international law and to cease all such illegal actions and violence against the Palestinian people under its occupation.

Israel also continues its systematic detention and arrest of Palestinian civilians, many of them youth, further fuelling tensions and violent confrontations. Moreover, such actions deepen mistrust and poison the environment surrounding the peace negotiations as, despite the recent release of some long-term prisoners, the

occupying Power continues to add to the ranks of the thousands of Palestinians it is unlawfully and inhumanely imprisoning, including hundreds of children.

In this regard, on 3 September, clashes broke out in Abu Dis between local youth and Israeli occupying forces following the detention of a young Palestinian man reportedly suffering from cancer. Dozens of residents were treated for the effects of tear gas. On 2 September, Israeli occupying forces injured two Palestinians and arrested four others during a raid in the Old City of Nablus. This was followed by a raid, on 3 September, on the Bab Hutta neighbourhood in Jerusalem, in which at least 12 Palestinian men were arrested and detained. On 4 September, occupying forces raided the town of Beit Ummar and detained three Palestinian teenagers. On 5 September, clashes broke out in the Al-Fawwar refugee camp in Al-Khalil after occupying forces raided the camp, firing gas bombs and rubber-coated bullets, injuring dozens of people. On 10 September, occupying forces raided the Arroub refugee camp near Al-Khalil and detained 13 Palestinians between the ages of 18 and 26 and assaulted several others. On 12 September, the occupying forces detained two Palestinian brothers from Beit Fajjar village east of Bethlehem. On 15 September, occupying forces raided several villages and detained at least 14 Palestinians.

Also inflaming tensions and instability have been the constant harassment, intimidation and violence by extremist Israeli settlers, with the collusion and protection of the occupying forces, against the Palestinian people and their properties. Such unlawful actions are the cause of widespread suffering, fear and trauma among the population and, in particular in the case of provocations in Occupied East Jerusalem, threaten to instigate further confrontation between the sides. We reiterate our demand for the perpetrators to be held accountable for their crimes.

The following are just some of the examples of Israeli settler violence in recent weeks: on 1 September, five Palestinians were injured when settlers threw stones at Palestinian cars near the Jalazoun refugee camp; on 5 September, settlers threw stones at Palestinian residents and houses in the al-Sowana area of East Jerusalem; on 8 September, settlers stoned Palestinian vehicles travelling near Nablus, damaging 25 vehicles; on 10 September, settlers set fire to Palestinian agricultural fields east of Nablus; and on 15 September, an Israeli settler, using a metal rod, hit and injured a 48-year-old Palestinian man in East Jerusalem. Also, on 11 September, a group of settlers raided the village of Salem, East of Nablus, in an attempt to raise the land, and were aided by the Israeli occupying forces, who injured three Palestinians and arrested seven others at the scene while allowing the settlers to carry out their vandalism and destruction.

All of the above illegal and provocative actions by Israel, the occupying Power, and its settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, are causing suffering for the Palestinian people and worsening conditions on the ground. Such actions threaten to further destabilize the situation in the midst of the turmoil already roiling the region, and are actions that are completely contradictory to the conditions necessary for advancing the negotiations and contradictory to the objectives of the peace process as a whole.

We thus renew our call upon the international community, including the Security Council, to uphold international law and the responsibilities to address this critical situation. For the sake of peace, all efforts must be made to compel Israel,

the occupying Power, to cease all violations and abide by its obligations under international law. This is imperative for reducing tensions, promoting calm and allowing for emergence of an environment truly conducive for the pursuit of serious negotiations aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli occupation, achieving the independence of the State of Palestine in accordance with the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders and justly resolving all outstanding final status issues, including the problem of the Palestine refugees, in accordance with international law and relevant resolutions, including resolution 194 (III), which are all requirements for the establishment of lasting peace and security between the two sides.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 472 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. The letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 August 2013 (A/ES-10/602-S/2013/509) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/604–S/2013/619

General Assembly
Security Council

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18 October 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 17 October 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We write to express our alarm about ongoing illegal Israeli activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the territory constituting the State of Palestine. The persistence of the illegal and provocative actions of the occupying Power in this regard continues to raise tensions and further destabilize the situation on the ground. While the State of Palestine remains committed to and continues to engage in the negotiations in good faith, Israel's ongoing aggression against the sovereignty, viability, territorial integrity and contiguity of the State of Palestine and the viability of the two-State solution are both cause for alarm and cause for deep doubts regarding the potential for success of the negotiations.

Most dangerously, extremist Israeli settlers, with the full protection and acquiescence of the Israeli occupying forces, continue to provoke and escalate tensions, particularly in Occupied East Jerusalem and specifically at Al-Haram Al-Sharif. The constant provocations and aggression against the sanctity of Palestinian cemeteries, churches and mosques, in particular Al-Aqsa Mosque, have the potential to bring about grave consequences for the entire region and the wider international community. We call on the international community, including the Security Council, to give due and immediate attention to this threat to international peace and security.

We regret to inform you that since the announcement by the parties of the resumption of negotiations, on 29 July, Israel, the occupying Power, has advanced approval of over 3,000 settlement units, and the confiscation of hundreds more dunums of Palestinian land. The latest announcement by Israel was made on 9 October, announcing the construction of 58 additional units in the settlement of "Pisgat Ze'ev" north of Jerusalem. In this regard, it is imperative to highlight a report issued by the Israeli non-governmental organization Peace Now, "Drastic Rise in Construction in the Settlements", which noted, among other things, a

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70 per cent rise in construction in the settlements from January to June 2013 compared with the same period in 2012, and that 86 per cent of construction had begun without any tenders. Additional reports indicate that Israel plans to exempt settlements from being obliged to publicize tenders, in an effort to reduce diplomatic pressures from such publication. These tactics only indicate further the true intention of Israel to build more settlements, rather than to act in accordance with international law in order to build confidence between the parties to achieve peace.

Clearly, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to perceive itself to be above the law, as indicated by its reckless, illegal behaviour. It is the responsibility of the international community, in particular the Security Council, to remind Israel of its obligations under the law, including humanitarian law, in accordance with article 49 (6) of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states that "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies". This grave breach is defined in Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as a war crime.

At the same time, extremist Israeli settlers continue to wreak havoc and terror on the Palestinian people and their lands. As the olive harvest is under way, which is an important source of sustenance and a central component of our agricultural sector, settlers have destroyed hundreds of olive groves, including setting thousands of olive trees ablaze, leaving many Palestinian families without any crops to harvest, destroying livelihoods and further damaging the Palestinian economy. It is no surprise that settlers, a by-product of the Israeli occupation and settlements, would destroy a symbol of peace, the olive tree, as every settlement unit constructed erodes the prospects and the viability of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

It is against this backdrop that peace talks continue — an environment that is hardly conducive to the pursuit of peace, and reinforces the notion that Israel is using this period only to further entrench its settlement enterprise and its de facto annexation of Palestinian land. Yet, the State of Palestine remains committed to the peace process and the objective of peace and coexistence. We renew our call to the international community, in particular the Security Council, not to stand idly by as the two-State solution is destroyed by Israel's illegal colonization schemes. Serious efforts are needed to uphold international law, foremost respect of it by the occupying Power, to support and advance the peace process for the attainment by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination, and independent in their State of Palestine on the basis of the pre-1967 border, in accordance with international law, including relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid terms of reference, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 473 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 September 2013 (A/ES-10/603-S/2013/567), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations

being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/605–S/2013/641

General Assembly
Security Council

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4 November 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 1 November 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Just three months ago, the international community was filled with high hopes that the renewal of negotiations, after a prolonged and deleterious impasse, would bring about, within the agreed negotiating period of six to nine months, a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in accordance with the long-standing terms of reference of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. It is regretful that throughout the duration of the past three months of the negotiations, these hopes have been constantly and seriously eroded by the illegal actions committed by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the territory constituting the State of Palestine.

Israel's obsession with its illegal settlement enterprise, including the destruction, theft and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, as well as its forced displacement of Palestinian families, to make way for its illegally transferred settler population and the construction of thousands more settlement units, is gravely encroaching on the Palestinian land and on Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination, and on the viability of the two-State solution. In this regard, we call upon the international community to condemn the intent by the occupying Power to displace over 15,000 Palestinians from the East Jerusalem neighbourhoods of Ras Khamis and Ras Shahada, where demolition orders were issued to over 200 residential blocks, continuing with its ethnic cleansing and Judaization campaign in the city.

The recent announcements regarding plans for the advancement of thousands more settlement units and other settlement projects throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, has again exposed Israel's true negative intentions vis-à-vis peace and the two-State solution. The occupying Power has further announced the following plans: 860 units in the settlements of "Ariel", north of Salfit; "Ma'aleh Adumim", east of Jerusalem; "Givat Ze'ev", built on the lands of Al Jib north of Jerusalem; "Betar Ilit", west of Bethlehem; "Karnei Shomron", north-west of Salfit, and "Elkana", west of Salfit;

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162 units in the "Yakir" settlement near Qalqilya; 296 units in the "Beit El" settlement near Ramallah; 31 units in the "Al Mog" settlement near Jericho; 95 units in the "Shilo" settlement; 3,700 units in the "Ramat Shlomo" settlement; the "Kadeem Tourism and Archeological Center" in Silwan; and the "Mount Scopus Slopes Park", which connects to the so-called "E1" area on the lands of al-Issawyia and At-Tur.

Israel persists with its illegal settlement and de facto annexation activities; it also has persisted with other illegal policies and aggression against the Palestinian people, with the killing of yet another young Palestinian man, Ahmad Imad Tazaza, 22 years old, yesterday in Jenin, in addition to its incessant military raids, daily arrest and detention of more Palestinian civilians and the reign of terror being carried out by its settlers, against the Palestinian people and their crops. In all Israeli actions, Israel is brazenly displaying its disrespect for international law and for the global efforts and support for the peace process, and is proving the skeptics right. Time and time again, Israel is proving its preference to remain an occupying Power and an aggressor, rather than to become a peace partner. Israel must be held accountable for the advancement of any settlement activities, including the transfer of its own population to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which constitutes a war crime in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The international community, including the Security Council, must not remain on the sidelines. We call upon the international community to condemn all these illegal actions and to take concerted efforts to salvage any remaining hope to achieve a just, lasting solution. Failure in this regard will compel the State of Palestine to consider all diplomatic, legal and political means to protect the territorial integrity and viability of the Palestinian land and to safeguard the human and economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of the Palestinian people, aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and achieving justice, including the fulfilment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to self-determination and independence.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 474 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 October 2013 (A/ES-10/604-S/2013/619) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Security Council

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14 November 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 13 November 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to draw your urgent attention to the critical situation both on the ground and in the status of the recently resumed peace negotiations. The prospects for realizing a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, on the basis of the two-State solution enshrined in relevant United Nations resolutions and on which there is an international consensus, are being deliberately sabotaged by Israel's illegal and reckless settlement campaign in the Occupied State of Palestine.

Yesterday, 12 November, the Israeli non-governmental organization Peace Now exposed plans by Israel, the occupying Power, to construct more than 20,000 new settlement units, including in the so-called "E1" area, according to tenders provocatively announced by the Government's Housing Ministry. This massive settlement expansion, which would result in the transfer of an exponential number of Israeli settlers — in addition to the more than half a million settlers already illegally transferred by Israel to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine — is a stark indication of Israel's total contempt for international law, United Nations resolutions and the international consensus demanding a halt to all Israeli settlement activities.

In fact, Israel's continuing settlement construction and expansion in the occupied Palestinian land is totally contradictory to the principle of land for peace and withdrawal from the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, which are fundamental elements of the two-State solution. Rather than ceasing its settlement activities and undertaking tangible measures towards dismantling its colonial project and bringing an end to the occupation, Israel is doing exactly the opposite, expanding and entrenching its presence in Occupied Palestine by all illegal means and measures, aimed at the de facto annexation of vast areas of Palestinian land and forcibly maintaining its illegitimate control over that land. At the same time, the occupying Power is allowing its settlers to wreak havoc across Palestine and inflict grave hardships on the Palestinian civilian population, and is supporting them in doing so. And, all of this is happening in the midst of a resumed peace process,

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belying Israel's claimed commitment to the two-State solution and peace and coexistence.

This provocation is regrettably only the latest episode in the long-running saga of Israel's lack of seriousness and sabotage in the peace process. Such Israeli bad faith and total disregard for the law and the terms of reference of the peace process, on which there is also a longstanding international consensus, has prolonged this conflict, prolonged the suffering and denial of the rights of the Palestinian people, and depleted the international community's efforts and resources aimed at resolving the conflict and redressing this injustice. It is painfully obvious that the lack of accountability for these transgressions has only bolstered Israel's impunity.

After more than three months of mostly futile negotiations between the parties, it is high time for all those members of the international community involved and vested in this peace process to undertake serious measures and make concerted efforts to stop this illegal Israeli campaign and bring the occupying Power into compliance with the law. The alternative will be to allow the negotiations, to which the Palestinian leadership has committed itself responsibly and in good faith, and the two-State solution to be doomed by Israel's settlement activities.

The international community must uphold its responsibilities in the face of such contempt and aggression. The Security Council in particular cannot remain sidelined while the prospects for peace are destroyed and the threats to international peace and security emanating from this ongoing occupation and conflict intensify. It is high time to shore up the political will necessary to bring Israel, the occupying Power, into compliance with the law.

This requires an immediate cessation of settlement activities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and clear Israeli acceptance of and commitment to the well-known terms of reference of the peace process, as enshrined in the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map. Failing to do so, the international community must face the end to the peace paradigm that has prevailed for decades and the onset of an urgent search for a viable alternative solution that will ensure the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and ensure justice, the cornerstones of any future Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 475 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 1 November 2013 (A/ES-10/605-S/2013/641), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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General Assembly
Security Council

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2 December 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 27 November 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to draw the attention of the international community to the ongoing violations of international law being perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the territory that constitutes the State of Palestine. These violations continue to negatively impact and prejudice the situation on the ground, to cause suffering and hardship for the Palestinian people, to inflame tensions between the two sides and to undermine the resumed negotiations and peace efforts.

Despite the resounding messages of condemnation by the entire international community of Israeli settlement activities and the vocal calls for a complete cessation, Israel continues to construct and expand its settlements and the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law, United Nations resolutions and the goal of reaching a final status agreement between Palestine and Israel based on the two-State solution, on the pre-1967 borders and the longstanding parameters of the peace process.

In this regard, on 25 November, Israel advanced the construction of over 800 additional units, including construction of 256 units in the "Nofei Prat" settlement; construction of 30 units in the "Shilo" settlement; approval of construction of 95 units in the "Givat Salit" settlement and plans for an additional 30 units there as well as measures to "legalize" another 19 units; construction of 409 units in the "Givat Ze'ev" settlement; and measures to "legalize" 12 more units in the "Nokdim" settlement, where the Israeli Foreign Minister is one of the settlers. The occupying Power has also continued with its construction of the "Mount Scopus Slopes Park" in Occupied East Jerusalem in the neighbourhoods of Al-Tur, al-Issawaiya and Silwan. We remind the international community that all of these plans and all other settlement activities by Israel in Occupied Palestine are being committed in gross and systematic violation of international humanitarian and

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criminal law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Also, on 26 November, the Israeli occupying forces provoked tensions in Al-Khalil and the surrounding towns as they conducted military operations, including several forced home searches and arrest operations. The Israeli forces arrested at least 13 Palestinians, including two 17-year-old boys, and shot and killed three men, Muhammad Nairoukh, 29 years old, from Al-Khalil; Mahmoud al-Najjar, 23 years old; and Mousa Makhamreh, 22 years old, both from Yatta. These killings have incited tensions, resulting in widespread protests and instability today throughout the Al-Khalil area.

The international community, including the Security Council, must continue to send clear messages to Israel, the occupying Power, that it must cease all of its violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, and that it must respect its obligations in this regard, including vis-à-vis the civilian population under its occupation. Israel must be held accountable for all actions that perpetuate and deepen this 46-year military occupation, in total contradiction to our collective goal of peace. Speaking of peace while physically destroying it through illegal measures on the ground, provocative declarations and other bad-faith actions should neither be ignored nor tolerated. Serious efforts are required to ensure Israel's compliance with international law and ensure its proper conduct in the negotiations, in accordance with its claimed commitment to the two-State solution, to ensure that this critical, fleeting opportunity to achieve a historic peace agreement between the State of Palestine and Israel within the next five months of the peace process is not lost.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 476 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 13 November 2013 (A/ES-10/606-S/2013/666) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/608–S/2013/729

General Assembly
Security Council

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10 December 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 10 December 2013 from the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We are compelled to draw your attention to the continuously rising tensions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem — the territory constituting the State of Palestine.

The Israeli occupying forces continue to use excessive force against Palestinian civilians, including against children and peaceful demonstrators, causing death and injury and destruction of property. Moreover, Israel, the occupying Power, has been unrelenting in its pursuit of illegal colonization practices, with settlement and wall construction continuing unabated, and its imposition of collective punishment measures on the Palestinian people. The negative impact of such Israeli breaches on the situation on the ground is vast, as reflected in the rising tensions, the deteriorating socioeconomic conditions and the deepening pessimism vis-à-vis the potential for the success of the peace negotiations and the viability of the two-State solution. Day after day, rather than engendering trust and confidence in the political process, Israel continues to raise serious doubts regarding its true intentions, undermining the process and compounding scepticism and anger among the Palestinian people.

One of the most recent victims of Israel's aggression against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation was a 14-year-old Palestinian boy, Wajih Wajdi Al-Ramahi, who was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces near Al-Jalazoun refugee camp while he was walking home on Saturday, 7 December. The young boy was shot with live ammunition by an Israeli sniper from a watchtower in the nearby Israeli settlement of "Bet El". Witnesses said that the boy had been playing soccer with his friends before heading to the store to buy drinks on Saturday, when he was suddenly struck by a bullet in his back while he was in front of the school. Tragically, as his family, friends and community mourn his death, their pain is compounded by the fact that the killing of this child by the Israeli occupying forces

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will likely be without consequence, as we continue to witness Israeli soldiers and settlers continuing to kill, injure and maim Palestinian civilians without any accountability for the perpetration of these crimes.

At the same time, Israel has continued to use violence and excessive force against Palestinian civilians partaking in protests against the occupation, particularly against the settlements and the wall, and against Israeli aggressions and provocations at Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Occupied East Jerusalem. Last Friday, 6 December 2013, Israeli occupying forces attacked unarmed civilians participating in the weekly protests against Israel's annexation wall and settlements and in marches commemorating the life of the late President of South Africa Nelson Mandela in recognition of his historic march for freedom, his legacy of peace and justice, and his unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Dozens of Palestinians were detained in those protests and dozens more were injured by Israeli gunfire and teargas canisters shot at them and from teargas inhalation during the protests in Bil'in, Al-Ma'sara, Kafr Qaddum, Nabi Saleh as well as at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

With regard in specific to Israel's incessant aggressions and provocations at Al-Haram Al-Sharif and at Al-Aqsa Mosque, we are compelled, once again, to draw the attention of the international community to the dangers of this situation, as Israel continues to fuel tensions and provoke religious sensitivities and conflict. We condemn and reject all Israeli measures and attempts to illegally alter the character, historic and religious identity and legal status of these holy sites and demand a halt to any and all such measures throughout Occupied East Jerusalem. This must also include a halt to all illegal practices aimed at altering the demographic composition of the city, foremost the Israeli settlement campaign in all its manifestations, as well as the demolition of Palestinian homes and the revocation of Palestinian residency rights in the city, by which Palestinian families continue to be forcibly displaced by the occupying Power in grave breach of international humanitarian law.

We call on the international community, including the Security Council, to give due attention to the rising tensions and the critical situation prevailing in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem. We refer here to the Ministerial Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) today in Conakry, Guinea, calling for a meeting of the Security Council to address the critical situation in Jerusalem. The resumption of peace negotiations does not absolve the Security Council of its Charter responsibilities to address matters affecting international peace and security, including such illegal and dangerous actions by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people and their holy sites. Serious efforts must be made to demand and ensure Israeli compliance with international law, relevant United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community before the situation further deteriorates.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 477 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 27 November 2013 (A/ES-10/607-S/2013/708) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the

Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State
of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/609–S/2013/752

General Assembly
Security Council

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20 December 2013

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 19 December 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing turmoil and deterioration of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, due to the illegal, provocative policies that continue to be pursued by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. Despite the fact that peace talks are under way, Israel continues to carry out grave violations of international law, ranging from the killing and injury of Palestinian civilians, military raids and mass arrests to the continuation of its massive colonial settlement campaign throughout the Occupied State of Palestine. These actions represent a dangerous escalation that threatens to further destabilize the already fragile situation and to thwart the current negotiations and serious international efforts being exerted to advance the achievement of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace.

In the latest acts of military aggression, Israeli occupying forces raided a neighbourhood in the centre of Qalqiliya in the West Bank today, Thursday, 19 December, and opened fire at 28-year-old Saleh Abd Al-Rahman Yasin, denying him medical attention and leaving him to bleed to death. This was the second killing of a Palestinian civilian by Israeli occupying forces in less than 24 hours, as in the evening hours of yesterday, Wednesday, 18 December, occupying forces, supported by 25 lethal military vehicles, entered Jenin refugee camp and proceeded to indiscriminately fire live ammunition at the civilians in the vicinity. One Palestinian was shot in the stomach, sustaining serious injuries, and 22-year-old Nafei Al-Saadi, was shot in the head and died of his wounds on the way to hospital. In addition to its incessant, deadly military raids, the arrest and detention of more Palestinian civilians has continued unabated, with the occupying forces arresting 14 more Palestinians, among them four teenagers, between the ages of 15 and 19, just yesterday, 18 December.

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Moreover, Israel's fixation with its illegal settlement enterprise, including the destruction, theft and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, as well as its forced displacement of Palestinian families, has also persisted unabated. In addition to ongoing settlement construction throughout the State of Palestine, evacuation orders were recently issued for 10 families near Jenin to make way for its illegally transferred settler population and the construction of more settlement units. In provocative remarks broadcast on Israeli army radio just today, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has vowed to continue "developing" settlements and stated the following, "We will not stop, even for a moment, building our country and becoming stronger, and developing ... the settlement enterprise".

Turning to the Gaza Strip, the maintenance of Israel's inhumane, unlawful blockade has continued to impose deplorable living conditions on the civilian population, especially affecting children and women. The economic, health, education and water and sanitation sectors have all been overwhelmingly devastated, and the humanitarian suffering and isolation that has been deliberately inflicted by the occupying Power on the Palestinian civilian population is worsening. With its imposition of the blockade, which constitutes collective punishment of the entire population, Israel has continued to obstruct the civilian population's access to necessary living supplies and materials, including basic medicines, in flagrant breach of international humanitarian law, to freedom of movement and to the pursuit of livelihoods and commerce, with exports at a near halt. To make matters worse, for the past seven weeks, the people of Gaza have had to endure the health risks associated from the overflow of raw sewage due to the failed operation of sanitation networks, caused in part by electricity black-outs, which on some days range up to 21 hours, and a prolonged shortage of fuel, a situation which has been exponentially exacerbated by the severe winter weather that hit the region last week, and has caused widespread flooding in Gaza, resulting in the displacement of thousands of Palestinian families.

The grave violations that continue to be committed by Israel, the occupying Power, coupled with the provocative statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister and other officials, cast serious doubts on Israel's commitment to the peace process and the two-State solution. Again and again, Israel is proving its preference to remain an occupying Power and a violator of international law, rather than to become a peace partner. In this regard, we call on the Security Council to carry out its Charter responsibilities to address matters affecting international peace and security, including such illegal and dangerous actions by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied State of Palestine. The international community must find the political will to address this critical situation to compel Israel to halt all of its grave violations against the Palestinian civilian population and abide by international law in order to save the peace process and salvage the two-State solution and the prospects for realizing a just and peaceful solution to this tragic conflict.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 478 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 10 December 2013 (A/ES-10/608-S/2013/729), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations

being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/610–S/2013/767

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 24 December 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you that Israel, the occupying Power, is escalating its military campaign against the Palestinian people in the besieged Gaza Strip, in grave breach of international law, including international humanitarian law, and the relevant provisions regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict and the prohibition of reprisals and collective punishment against the civilian population under occupation. The intensification of Israel's aggression against the Gaza Strip threatens to further destabilize the situation on the ground and to fully ignite yet another round of deadly violence. This demands the attention of the international community, particularly the Security Council, which is duty-bound to act to maintain international peace and security.

Today, Israel, the occupying Power, unleashed a new round of deadly violence and terror against the Palestinian civilian population, including women and children, in the besieged Gaza Strip by launching a series of military strikes and artillery bombardments, causing death and destruction. These barbaric attacks by the occupying Power resulted in the death of Hala Abu Sbeikha, 3 years old, and injury to her mother and two brothers, Bilal (4 years old) and Mohamed (6 years old), in the Al-Maghazi refugee camp. Three more Palestinian civilians were injured in an Israeli artillery bombing east of Gaza City.

On Saturday, 21 December, Israeli occupying forces stationed at a military post to the north of the Gaza Strip shot and killed Odeh Hamad, 27 years old, while he was collecting scrap at a distance of 850 m from the Beit Hanoun border with Israel, and also shot and injured his 25-year-old brother. The same day, three more Palestinian civilians were shot and injured by the Israeli occupying forces east of Khan Younis.

We reiterate our call to the international community, particularly the Security Council, to uphold its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and

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security and to bring an immediate end to the occupying Power's military aggression against the Palestinian people and to its illegal and inhumane blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip. The international community must reaffirm its rejection of Israel's criminal, illegal and provocative actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 479 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 19 December 2013 (A/ES-10/609-S/2013/752), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Security Council

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General Assembly
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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 30 December 2013 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

We bring to your urgent attention these consequential illegal actions by Israel, the occupying Power, which require the international community, particularly the Security Council, to speak with one voice in condemning and taking the actions necessary to end these grave breaches of the law, which threaten the achievement of peace through the two-State solution on the basis of the 1967 borders. If continued unabated, these plans will make permanent an apartheid regime consisting of one State with two segregated legal systems, further threatening international peace and security.

On 29 December, the Ministerial Committee for Legislative Affairs of Israel approved a bill that would extend the laws of Israel to the settlements and their by-pass roads in the Jordan Valley, effectively annexing 28.5 per cent of the occupied West Bank, denying the State of Palestine its sovereignty, territorial contiguity and viability.

The Security Council must again send to Israel, the occupying Power, the message contained in its resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980 with regards to its "basic law" on Jerusalem and by which, inter alia, it affirmed "that the enactment of the 'basic law' by Israel constitutes a violation of international law and does not affect the continued application of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem" and determined that "all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, [...] in particular the 'basic law' on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith". The international community, particularly the Council, must reiterate the same concerning the rest of the State of Palestine, particularly the Jordan Valley, and call upon all States to ban all settlement products

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from entering their markets and cut all possible ties with the Israeli occupation, including to non-governmental organizations and private sector entities supporting it.

Continuing its illegal actions to derail the efforts of the international community, particularly the current efforts of the United States and others to achieve comprehensive and lasting peace, Israel has announced its intention to construct an additional 1,400 settlement units throughout the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. These announcements highlight the arrogance and intransigence of the occupying Power, emphasizing the need for legal recourse, including through the International Criminal Court, for the State of Palestine to protect its citizens and territory from these most serious Israeli violations of the Rome Statute and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 480 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 December 2013 (A/ES-10/610-S/2013/767), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations